

### **Electric Utility rate increase proposed for 2008, 2009**

Silicon Valley Power, the City of Santa Clara's municipal Electric Utility, has proposed a 3 percent increase in electricity rates, effective January 1, 2008, and an additional 3 percent increase on January 1, 2009.

The new rate increase proposal was introduced to Santa Clara City Council on October 23. Final action is proposed for the City Council meeting on December 4, 2007. Even after these modest increases, Silicon Valley Power rates continue to be substantially lower than PG&E rates and SVP's system average rate for electricity remains the lowest of any utility in California.

"The economic climate is making it impossible to keep our rates as low as they have been," explained John Roukema, Santa Clara's Interim Electric Utility Director. "To help defray these incremental rate increases, we offer on-site residential and commercial energy audits, efficient appliance and equipment rebates, financial rate assistance programs and renewable energy options."

The cost of electricity has increased throughout the California power market because of the doubling of the price of natural gas. The City's Donald Von Raesfeld Power Plant, along with fortified transmission lines entering into the City, have created many benefits and offset the need for even higher increases.

For more information on ways to reduce energy use, call 244-SAVE (7283) or visit [www.siliconvalleypower.com](http://www.siliconvalleypower.com).